

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
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FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4230

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 CONAKRY 0746

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, SHUM, MARR, EAID, GV, US, IV, SG
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH PRESIDENT TOURE

1. SUMMARY: IN MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE APRIL 12, AMBASSADOR DISCUSSED MONROVIA SUMMIT, SENEGAL/GAMBIA RIVER DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES, HUMAN RIGHTS AND ADDITIONAL PRISONER RELEASES, US PL-480, AID AND INVESTMENT ASSISTANCE, NON-ALIGNED FOREIGN POLICY AND RESOLUTION OF AFRICAN PROBLEMS WITHOUT NON-AFRICAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE. TOURE GAVE AMBASSADOR WARM, FRIENDLY RECEPTION BUT RESERVED DISCUSSION OF THESE POINTS FOR FUTURE OCCASION, AS HE HAS DONE AT TIMES WITH FRENCH AMBASSADOR. MEETING ENDED WITH CHEERFUL, SYMBOLIC VIP TOUR OF CONAKRY WITH TOURE AT THE WHEEL. END SUMMARY

2. AT MY REQUEST, I CALLED ON PRESIDENT TOURE APRIL 12. HE AND PRIME MINISTER BEAVOGUI GREETED ME IN A WARM, RELAXED MANNER, AND THE ATMOSPHERE THROUGHOUT WAS NOTABLY FRIENDLY. AFTER SOME INITIAL REMARKS ABOUT MY PLEASURE IN BEING IN GUINEA, I WENT ON TO SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS, MAKING THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. CONGRATULATIONS ON SUCCESS OF MONROVIA SUMMIT AND TOURE'S INITIATIVE THAT MADE THIS MOMENTOUS ACCOMPLISHMENT
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POSSIBLE. NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORS WILL, WE HOPE, OPEN THE WAY FOR GUINEAN PARTICIPATION IN ACTIVITIES OF REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF SENEGAL AND GAMBIA RIVERS.

B. IN ATMOSPHERE OF COOPERATION AND FRIENDSHIP
FOLLOWING RESOLUTION OF DIFFERENCES WITH NEIGHBORING

STATES, WE HOPE FURTHER PROGRESS IN HUMAN RIGHTS WILL BE POSSIBLE AND ALL BASIS FOR CRITICISM IN THIS REGARD CAN BE ELIMINATED. HUMAN RIGHTS REPRESENTS AN ELEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE IN US POLICY AND PLAYS INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ROLE IN USG DECISIONS. US DOES NOT CLAIM IT IS PERFECT AS REGARDS HUMAN RIGHTS; IT IS PRECISELY BECAUSE OF OUR PREOCCUPATION WITH THE STRUGGLE AGAINST HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AT HOME THAT WE GIVE SUCH EMPHASIS TO THE SUBJECT IN OUR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. TOURE'S INVITATION TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY DERIAN IS WELCOME AND CONSTRUCTIVE. SHE IS DEEPLY DEDICATED TO ADVANCEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS, AND IT WILL BE HELPFUL FOR HER TO GET TO KNOW THE SITUATION IN GUINEA AT FIRST HAND. WE HAVE NOTED WITH SATISFACTION RELEASE OF CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF DETAINEES IN DECEMBER-JANUARY AND HOPE IN POST-MONROVIA ATMOSPHERE IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO CONTINUE RELEASE OF DETAINEES ARRESTED IN ANOTHER ERA. QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IS NOT PURELY ONE OF PRINCIPLE; IT IS REFLECTED IN LAWS THAT CONTROL US ECONOMIC RELATIONS ABROAD AND THEREFORE IS A PRACTICAL MATTER THAN CAN LIMIT THE ABILITY OF AID, EXIM-BANK AND OTHER ELEMENTS OF USG TO COOPERATE WITH FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS. MY AIM IS STRENGTHENING OF US/GUINEAN RELATIONS AND MAXIMIZATION OF US ECONOMIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL INPUT INTO GUINEAN DEVELOPMENT; ELIMINATION OF QUESTIONS RE HUMAN RIGHTS WILL BE OF CONFIDENTIAL

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PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE IN THIS CONNECTION.

C. WE ARE GLAD PRIVATE US FIRMS, IN COOPERATION WITH GOG, HAVE BEEN ABLE MAKE SUBSTANTIVE CONTRIBUTIONS TO DEVELOPMENT OF GUINEAN RESOURCES. WE ARE TRYING TO ADVANCE CONSIDERATION OF OTHER SUCH POSSIBILITIES. WE ARE PLEASED US HAS BEEN ABLE TO PROVIDE PL-480 ASSISTANCE, AND WE ARE TRYING TO ADVANCE THE SCHEDULE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF AID AGRICULTURAL PROJECT. IT REMAINS MY CONVICTION, HOWEVER, THAT IT IS IN AREA OF PRIVATE INVESTMENT THAT US CAN MAKE ITS GREATEST CONTRIBUTION TO GUINEAN DEVELOPMENT.

D. PRIMIN BEAVOGUI'S VISIT TO THE US IN JUNE 1977 REPRESENTED AN IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD IN MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND TRUST. WE ARE CONVINCED GUINEA'S NONALIGNMENT POLICY IS SOUND AND BEST ACCORDS WITH TRUE INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY OF REPUBLIC OF GUINEA. WE COMPLETELY AGREE THAT AFRICAN COUNTRIES SHOULD RESOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS BY THEIR OWN MEANS AND WITHOUT RECOURSE TO MILITARY ASSISTANCE FROM NON-AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND WITHOUT PERMITTING CONSTRUCTION ON

THEIR TERRITORY OF ANY KIND OF FOREIGN MILITARY BASE.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 CONAKRY 0746

3. SEKOU TOURE AND BEAVOGUI FOLLOWED ABOVE PRESENTATION CLOSELY, TOURE NODDING AGREEMENT FROM TIME-TO-TIME AND BOTH OF THEM INDICATING PARTICULARLY STRONG AGREEMENT ON ALL POINTS IN PARA 2.D. ABOVE. AT END OF PRESENTATION, TOURE THANKED ME AND SAID HE WOULD BE DISCUSSING THESE MATTERS WITH ME LATER. WE HAD AN EASY EXCHANGE REGARDING SOME BOOKS ON AGRICULTURE AND DROUGHT I HAD BROUGHT TOURE AND WHICH HE SAID HE WAS GLAD TO HAVE. WE THEN LEFT THE PALACE, AND, ACCOMPANIED BY MINISTER OF DOMAIN FOR EDUCATION AND CULTURE MAMADI KEITA WHO HAD JOINED US ON THE WAY OUT, WENT FOR THE NOW TRADITIONAL VIP DRIVE THROUGH THE CITY OF CONAKRY WITH TOURE AT THE WHEEL, WAVING HIS WHITE HANDKERCHIEF OUT THE WINDOW ALL THE WHILE. IT WAS SOMETHING OF A HOLIDAY ATMOSPHERE, CHEERFUL AND RELAXED, AND TOURE OBVIOUSLY ENJOYED THE SPONTANEOUS ENTHUSIASM HE EVOKED AS WE WENT ALONG. THERE WAS SOME CONVERSATION IN THE CAR, AND I TOOK THE OCCASION TO MENTION PRESIDENT CARTER'S SUCCESSFUL VISIT IN LAGOS AND THE IDENTITY OF VIEWS BETWEEN HIM AND HEAD OF STATE OBASANJO ON SOUTHERN AFRICA. TOURE NODDED IN APPROVAL, WITHOUT MAKING ANY SPECIFIC RESPONSE. AFTER SOME COLORFUL EXPERIENCES ON THE

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ROAD, INCLUDING A BRIEF VISIT TO MAMADI KEITA'S COMPOUND WHERE TOURE MADE THE ROUNDS, GREETING EVERYONE IN TURN AND INTRODUCING ME, HE FINALLY DROVE ME TO MY RESIDENCE. HE SAID HE WOULD NOT COME IN AT THE MOMENT BUT WOULD VISIT LATER. WE PART JOVIALY AFTER BEAVOGUI, A COUPLE OF FOLLOWING POLICE OFFICERS AND I HAD PUSHED THE PRESIDENT'S STALLED CITROGEN TO GET IT STARTED.

4. THE FOLLOWING DAY I CHECKED WITH FRENCH AMBASSADOR LEWIN TO ASK WHAT HE MADE OF TOURE'S FAILURE TO MAKE SUBSTANTIVE RESPONSE TO MY PRESENTATION. LEWIN SAID HE HAD ENCOUNTERED SIMILAR LACK OF RESPONSE FROM TOURE ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS. HE OBSERVED THAT TOURE REACTS IN THIS WAY WHEN HE IS TIRED OR PREOCCUPIED WITH A PROBLEM OR UP-COMING EVENT SUCH AS HIS PROJECTED VISIT TO LIBYA AND POINTS EAST. LEWIN READ NOTHING ELSE INTO TOURE'S ACTION AND SAID HIS OWN PROCEDURE IN SUCH CASES HAD BEEN TO FOLLOW UP A WEEK OR TWO LATER WITH AN INQUIRY AS TO WHETHER TOURE WANTED TO SET UP A MEETING TO DISCUSS THE MATTERS LEWIN HAD EARLIER BROACHED.

5. COMMENT: UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, AND GIVEN LEWIN'S SIMILAR EXPERIENCE ON OTHER OCCASIONS, I AM NOT INCLINED TO READ ANY SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE INTO SEKOU TOURE'S FAILURE TO SPEAK TO THE POINTS I HAD RAISED. CERTAINLY, THE ATMOSPHERE THROUGHOUT WAS NOTABLY WARM AND FRIENDLY, AND TOURE DID NOT APPEAR AT ANY POINT TO BE BOTHERED OR PUT OFF BY ANYTHING I HAD TO SAY. HE IS INDEED EMBARKED ON NEW DIRECTIONS OF POLICY AND AN UNACCUSTOMED SCHEDULE OF FOREIGN TRAVEL, AND IT IS EASILY COMPREHENSIBLE THAT HE MIGHT BE PREOCCUPIED WITH THE RAMIFICATIONS AND

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IMPLICATIONS OF IT ALL. I BELIEVE WE HAVE USEFULLY GONE ON RECORD WITH HIM ON A NUMBER OF BASIC POINTS, INCLUDING A FAIRLY EXPLICIT STATEMENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS, AND I PLAN TO FOLLOW UP LATER TO ELICIT HIS COMMENTS. CROSBY

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